

Wisconsin Section, American Association of Physics Teachers

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

October 27, 2018, at UW – Whitewater

After many wonderful morning talks and several great workshops, we gathered in the Upham Hall front lobby for a Poster session, and then we all headed to Room 141 to grab our sandwiches and start the business lunch meeting. The food was delicious, and the conversations were great (always good to see everyone again, and to meet new people!)

Meeting Start Time: 12:05 pm (which was nearly on time, but herding cats is difficult). President Jim Madsen presiding (after we “officially” elected him). The first order of business was to thank this year’s organizer (Steven Sahyun) and the UW – Whitewater folks for a job well-done in bringing WAPT to Whitewater. These thanks, of course, go to all of the people working behind the scenes, as well. Loud clapping acknowledged their excellent work! Jim also wanted to thank Matt Evans and Erik Hendrickson for doing “everything” that they do.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (October 21st, 2017) – Erik Hendrickson

Motion to accept the Minutes (printed on blue paper) was made by Steven Sahyun, seconded by Gary Baier. No major typos were found. Motion passed nearly unanimously by a voice vote (there was one abstention).

2. Treasurer’s Report for 2017-18 – Erik Hendrickson

Please see the full text, including a nice graph, of Erik’s Report (which was distributed on green paper), but a few items were highlighted...

A. It was reported that our 1-yr CD earned \$5.72 last year. Expenses were described briefly, including the costs of last year’s meeting.

B. It was noted that our CD funds might be put to good use at next year’s meeting (see New Business section below). So, Erik will pull those funds out of the CD at the appropriate time this coming year, making them available for the 2019 Meeting.

C. Motion to accept the printed treasurer’s report as distributed, was made by Matt Evans, seconded by Brad Hinaus. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Section Representative’s Report – Jim Mallmann

Please see the full text of Jim’s Report (which was distributed on yellow paper), but he highlighted a few items...

A. Jim pointed out that the AAPT is looking for all of us to encourage new members to join (and for each of us to join, as well!). They would really like to see more people attend the national meetings, as well. One thing that might encourage you to attend these meetings is to look over the “area committees” and attend one of their sessions. You can participate in the area committee meeting as a “friend”, just to get a taste for what they do, and then if you are still interested you can join the actual area committee. This is a great way to get involved!

B. Jim noted that the Winter 2019 AAPT Meeting is in Houston, TX, which is always more than a few degrees warmer than winter in Wisconsin! The Summer 2019 Meeting is in Provo, UT. Just to plan ahead, the following Winter Meeting (2020) is in Orlando, FL, and following Summer Meeting (2020) is in Grand Rapids, MI (close enough for an easy drive!).

C. He reminded us that we should consider nominating people for the many different awards that AAPT honors people with every year. See the website for more details.

D. The AAPT has an eMentoring Program (<http://ementoring.aapt.org/>). It is designed to connect high school physics educators who desire additional guidance from experienced high school educators. Please consider participating in this excellent resource!

E. Jim mentioned that he is always available via email to answer any of your questions about AAPT.

F. Motion to accept the report made by Gary Baier, seconded by Jim Madsen. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

4. High School Representative’s Report – Gary Baier

Please see the full text of Gary’s Report (which was distributed on orange paper), but he highlighted a few items...

A. New DPI licenses are coming to WI (again). There will be one “Science” license, instead of individual physics or chemistry or biology or earth science licenses. Thus, each UW school is creating new majors to match this change. If you hear new things or if you have questions, please talk to Gary!

B. Encourage folks to participate in the many activities offered at the Summer 2019 Meeting in Provo and the Summer 2020 Meeting in Grand Rapids. Lots of good sessions for high school teachers!

C. Encourage new teachers to use ementoring.aapt.org! This program tries to connect newer high school physics teachers with a mentor through email communication and Skype/FaceTime contact. They are also looking for good mentors (you should consider signing up!). Most of the participants are currently from the east/west coasts, but many more mentors are needed! There are many early-career high school physics teachers looking for help/support, especially from smaller schools in the middle of the country. Make sure you encourage your new graduates who are heading off for teaching positions to sign up!

D. Trying really hard to increase AAPT participation by high school teachers. Gary wondered if we should invite the chemistry and/or biology and/or earth science education folks to a future WAPT Meeting (a joint meeting with one of their teacher education groups?).

E. Motion to accept the report made by Steven Sahyun, seconded by Matt Evans. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Two-Year College Representative's Report – Carey Woodward, Jr.

Again, please see Carey's full written report (which was distributed on gray paper).

A. The restructuring where each of the 13 two-year campuses was attached to one of 7 UW 4-year schools has been a bit hasty. This is the transition year, but everything looks the same to the students. The different "receiving" schools are each handling it differently, which is adding to some of the confusion. Watch for updates in the future.

B. Distance education? There are 3 different kinds. Online will continue, for now. It was originally organized as a 14th "campus", but now it is a collaboration among the receiving institutions. More discussions about its future are ongoing. Point-to-Point classes are taught face-to-face on one campus and simultaneously streamed to another. These collaborations will continue, but the receiving institutions need to do the negotiations. The outcomes of these negotiations are now a bit more complex and uncertain, though (for example, UW – Green Bay just ended all of their Point-to-Point relationships with Manitowoc, Marinette and Sheboygan).

C. Enrollment is concerning: physics and astronomy are down 5.5%. Although, this is comparable to overall enrollment trends for all of the two-year colleges.

D. Attended 2018 Winter Meeting in San Diego. First time there was a Two-Year College Day. Although it was sparse, it was still encouraging. Trying to bring back the New Faculty Workshop. They offered a reduced one-day registration rate (of only \$85) for first-time attendees. They are also going to do this for all new TYC faculty attendees for the next several Meetings.

E. Motion to accept the report made by Matt Evans, seconded by Brad Hinaus. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

6. Committee Reports

a) Awards Committee – Mark Lattery

There were no nominations this year (again!).

If you think there's someone deserving of a WAPT award, make sure to share this information with any member of the Awards Committee at any time throughout the year. We continue to look for and recognize excellence in the Wisconsin physics education community.

Remember, there are also national AAPT awards out there. Think about nominating WAPT members for these, as well.

b) Publications/Promotions Committee – Jim Madsen

A big thank you to Matt for sending out interesting stuff to the whole group occasionally. Jim's question was: Do people want more stuff to be sent out? People seemed to think that "occasionally" was okay. Jim reminded everyone to send stuff to both Matt and him for posting.

Jim suggested that the Pub Comm should meet once a month in an online format. He also reminded everyone that the folks on the Pub Comm have permissions to post things on the FaceBook page. These items can then be collected and sent out occasionally to all.

c) Workshops Committee – Steven Sahyun

There were a sufficient number of (excellent) workshops for this meeting and they were well attended. If you have any feedback regarding the workshops, please let Steven know. Start thinking of workshop ideas for next year! Another thing to think about for future meetings: Should we compensate workshop leaders and invited speakers? Maybe something for next year's New Business...

Steven thanked the Nano-Link workshop folks from the Center for Nanotechnology Education, and Mark Lattery for the Pivot Interactives workshop, and Carey Woodward for the Free-Fall Acceleration Lab workshop.

Don't forget, Steven is also presenting an Introduction to 3D Printing workshop this afternoon.

d) A motion was made by Gary Baier to accept all Committee Reports as presented and seconded by Matt Evans. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

7. Old Business

a) None.

8. Future Meeting Sites

2019: Erik Hendrickson & Matt Evans & Jim Madsen will look into hosting a meeting at The Dells

2020: UW – River Falls (they are always on the tens!)

2021: UW – Stevens Point, David Tamres & Gary Baier

2022: UW – Eau Claire, Matt Evans

2023: Marquette, Melissa Vigil

Start thinking of the possibility of hosting at your school...

9. New Business

A. Shrinking attendance and lack of diversity at WAPT Meetings

There is concern regarding the overall health of the discipline, especially when looking at the attendance of our Meetings. There are very few new folks attending each year (even when offering to eliminate all registration fees) and there are even fewer attendees who are not white and male. How can we be more inclusive? One suggestion was to be able to offer childcare during the Meeting (we should definitely look into this possibility for future meetings). What about inviting folks from the Wisconsin Technical College System? Each one of us should reach out to other physics teachers near our home campuses: offer them a ride to the next meeting, talk up the first-timer discount, think of new/different speakers for our plenary session (maybe a popular book author or a science reporter?), etc. Start recruiting earlier in the year (spring or summer?). Include your WAPT affiliation to your email “signature”. Next year, let’s use our funds to help us host an affordable Meeting at The Dells, where the attendees get waterpark passes for their families, and maybe some folks will stay the extra night after the Meeting as an early-winter vacation getaway. If you have other ideas, please pass them along!

10. Elections (Otherwise known as the railroading portion of the meeting!)

Awards Committee:

(Past President - one-year term; High School Rep. - two-year term; College Rep. - two-year term)

Past-President: Jim Madsen

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans, seconded by Brad Hinaus.

College Rep.: Steven Sahyun 2018-2020

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Matt Evans.

High School Rep.: Paul Nevins 2017-2019

Workshops Committee:

(Chair/Vice President - one-year term; High School Rep. - three-year term; College Rep. - three-year term)

High School Rep.: Amy Root 2017-2020

College Rep.: Jim Madsen 2017-2020

High School Rep.: Dan Hagstrom 2018-2021

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Mark Lattery.

College Rep.: Mark Lattery 2018-2021

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans, seconded by Gary Baier.

Publications/Promotions Committee:

(Chair - three-year term; High School Rep. - three-year term; College Rep. three-year term)

High School Rep.: Gary Baier 2017-2020

College Rep.: Andrew Pawl 2017-2020

High School Rep.: OPEN 2018-2021

College Rep.: OPEN 2018-2021

Chair: Jim Madsen 2016-2019

Officers:

Secretary/Treasurer (3-year term): Erik Hendrickson 2016-2019

Two-Year College Representative (2-year term): Carey Woodward 2017-2019

Elections:

High School Representative (2-year term): Gary Baier 2018-2020

Section Representative (3-year term): Jim Mallmann 2018-2021

Vice President, Program Chair, Workshops Committee Chair (1-year term): Matt Evans

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Mark Lattery and seconded by Erik Hendrickson. Thank you, in advance, Matt and The Dells! See you next year!!

President (1-year term): Steven Sahyun

He was elected on a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans and seconded by Mark Lattery. Congratulatory clapping was heard reverberating in the room!

11. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Jim Madsen: Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a wonderful meeting! Don’t forget that there are still afternoon workshops and oral presentations to attend.

The following motion was made by Jim Madsen and seconded by Gary Baier:

A big **THANK YOU** to
Steven Sahyun & UW – Whitewater
for an absolutely
FANTASTIC MEETING!!!

The motion unanimously passed by a voice (and clapping of hands) vote!

The following motion was made by Mark Lattery and seconded by Erik Hendrickson:

A big “**Thank You!**” to Jim Madsen for running such an efficient Business Meeting!
This motion unanimously passed, as well.

!!!See everyone at **The Dells** next year!!!

The meeting ended at 1:24 pm (which was much shorter than last year’s meeting!). Everyone started chatting (the best part of a meeting of teachers!) or dispersing to a workshop or other talks or...

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Hendrickson
Secretary/Treasurer